Mr. Jonathan Yardley
The Washington Post
1150 15 St.,NW
Washington, DC 20071

7/28/93

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Recsiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Yardley,

Thank you VERY much for your review of the McGinnis commercialization and exploitation that taints just about all of the "commemoration" of the 30th JFK assassination anniversary.

To the degree my limitations permit I am trying to keep track of them. All I'd known of this one is the copyright controversy. I regret that the issue was raised over such slime because I do not believe that any of us has the right to copyright our history if that part of it was an exclusive from officialdom. I wrote Kurtz about this without response because I believe that at least in part his trust was imposed upon by Manchester. The original contract was not at all what Manchester represented.

I have two interests in particular in keeping up with the coming books. One is to perfect the record I have for history while I still can. The other is to be able to respond to requests for information from reporters and reviewers.

All I have, which includes about a third of a million pages of assassination records I got by more than a dozen FOIA lawsuits, will be a free public archive at local Hood College. Until then my practise has been to give free and unsupervised access to all writing in the field all of whom I know will write what I do not agree with. I assert no property rights and permit unsupervised copying on our machine.

The commemoration of the 25th anniversary was an atrocity. I expect this one to be as evil but in some instances more cunning. Some writers, of course, will believe what they want to believe without having done the work necessary to learn whether it is possible.

Suppose, for example that you are given Gerald Posner's coming book to read. Suppose, as I believe, it is persuasive with what he presents. And it turns out, if one knows the unquestionable official evidence, that from the puffery I've seen it is impossible?

It happens that the Posners spent several days here. They had unsupervised access and made copies and even borrowed pictures I do not recall being returned. I'll have to ask. They left with my books that limited as they are to the official evidence told them that what he now says is impossible. So, he knows better! (It is impossible, as his publisher told Publishers Weekly, for any enhancement of the Zapruder film to prove that Oswald was a lone assassin, or even any assassin.)

It was not until I read that PW story that I understood why when they were here and interviewed me they asked nothing consistent with this book. And, of course, I'll be listed among those he interviewed.

If you can let me have copies of what you receive on this coming flood of money-grabbing I'll appreciate it. I can then add it to the files for history and be better prepared to respond if asked for any information. (Lardner knows me pretty well.)

Sorry that at 80 and with many illnesses my typing can't be any better.

Again thanks and best wishes, Harold Weisberg Harold Weisberg